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DECLARATION

I, Anjana Chakraborty, bearing Registration Number Ph.D/1074/2010, Dt. 05-04-2010, hereby declare that the subject matter of the thesis entitled 'A STUDY OF THE EVOLUTION OF SOMA IN VEDIC MYTHOLOGY AND RITUAL' is the record work done by me and the content of the thesis did not form the basis for award of any degree to me or to anybody else to be the best of my knowledge. I also declare that it has not been submitted previously in part or in full to this University or any other University or Institution for the award of any degree or diploma.

Place: Silchar

Date-

(Anjana Chakraborty)

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Place: Assam University, Silchar

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PREFACE

The research work '**A Study of the Evolution of Soma in Vedic Mythology and Ritual**' has been undertaken to ascertain the evolution of an earthly plant, later personified as a divinity and heavenly being and called king and made sovereign in the field of Vedic mythology and ritual.

The text of the Vedic *Samhitās*, the *Brāhmaṇas* and the *Śrauta Sūtras* and other reference books have been studied for formulating the thesis. Data has been collected from primary and secondary sources. Journals, seminar proceedings and internet has been consulted. This research work has been prepared with the best possible sincerity.

The proposed research work is divided into five chapters. The first chapter provides an introduction to the present work with a discussion on Vedic Gods, association of Soma with other Gods, Vedic rituals and the ninth *maṇḍala* of the *Ṛgveda*. The second chapter deals with characteristics of the Soma and his medicinal power. The third chapter deals with rituals of *Somayāga* and inter relation of *Somayāga* with other *yāgas*. The fourth chapter deals with a study on the synchronization of rituals and myths of the God Soma and the fifth chapter resumes to its major findings and provides for the concluding observations of the proposed research work.

The God Soma is one of the prominent Deities of the Veda. Soma in creeper form is crushed for procuring its juice for its useful role in the ritual. The Soma drink was considered the most effective of all medicinal preparations. Soma being regarded as a divine drink which bestows immortal life. Soma is the soul of sacrifice. As the ritual plays a very important role in *Ṛgveda* it is only natural that Soma, the plant, the juice of which is so much used in the ritual is deified as one of the most important of Vedic God Soma. Soma, the Vedic God or Soma ritual is the

making of synchronization of myth and ritual. So much the mythology of Soma is clear enough the actual plant lies immediately behind the god.

In fine, I must add that I am fully conscious of the probable short coming in my work. I however, humbly submit here:

dṛṣtam kimapi lokesmin na nirdoṣam na nirguṇam |

āvṛṇudhvamoto doṣān vivṛṇudhvam guṇān budhāh ||

SCHEME OF TRANSLITERATION

VOWELS

अ = A	ऋ = R̄
आ = Ā	ए = E
इ = I	ऌ = Ai
ई = Ī	ऎ = O
उ = U	औ = Au
ऊ = Ū	

CONSONENTS

क = K	त = T	ष = Ś
ख = Kh	थ = Th	स = S
ग = G	द = D	ह = H
घ = Gh	ध = Dh	क्ष = Kś
ङ = ṅ	न = N	Anusvāra [·] = Ṃ
च = C	प = P	Visarga [:] = Ḥ
छ = Ch	फ = Ph	त्र = Tra
ज = J	ब = B	ज्ञ = Jñ
झ = Jh	भ = Bh	Avagraha (s) = O'
ञ = Ñ	म = M	
ट = Ṭ	य = Y	
ठ = Ṭh	र = R	
ड = Ḍ	ल = L	
ढ = Ḍh	व = V	
ण = Ṇ	श = Ś	

ABBREVIATIONS

- *Ait.Ār.*: *Aitareya Āraṇyaka*.
- *Ait.Br.*: *Aitareya Brāhmaṇa*.
- *Ait. Up.* : *Aitareya Upaniṣad*
- *Āp D.Sū*: *Āpastamba Dharma Sūtra*.
- *Āp.Gṛ. Sū*: *Āpastamba Gṛhya Sūtra*.
- *Āp.Śr. Sū*: *Āpastamba Śrauta Sūtra*.
- *Āśv.Gṛ. Sū*: *Āśvalayana Gṛhya Sūtra*.
- *Āśv.Śr. Sū*: *Āśvalāyana Śrauta Sūtra*.
- AV: Atharva Veda.
- B.D. Sū: *Baudhāyana Dharma Sūtra*.
- *BhG*: *Bhāgavadgītā*.
- *Br*: *Brāhmaṇa*.
- *Br Up*: *Bṛhadāraṇyaka Upaniṣad*.
- *Bau.Śr. Sū*: *Baudhāyana Śrauta Sūtra*.
- *Ch.Up.* : *Chāndogya Upaniṣad*
- Comm.: Commentary.
- Ed.: Edited.
- *Gop.Br*: *Gopatha Brāhmaṇa*.
- *Gṛ Sū*: *Gṛhya Sūtra*.
- *H.Gṛ. Sū*: *Hiraṇyakeśi Gṛhya Sūtra*.
- HOS: Harvard Oriental Series.

- i.e.: That is.
- *Jai.Br: Jaiminīya Brāhmaṇa.*
- *Jai.Up.Br: Jaiminīya Upaniṣad Brāhmaṇa.*
- *Kau.Sū: Kausika Sūtra*
- *Kau Br: Kauśītaki Brāhmaṇa.*
- *Kau Śr. Sū: Kauśītaki Śrauta Sūtra.*
- *KS: Kāṭhaka Saṃhitā.*
- *Kā. Śr. Sū: Kātyāyana Śrauta Sūtra.*
- *Kau. Up: Kauśītaki Upaniṣad.*
- *Mai. Sam: Maitrāyaṇī Saṃhitā.*
- *Nir: Nirukta.*
- *NSP: Nirṇaya Sāgara Press.*
- *P.Gṛ Sū: Pāraskara Gṛhya Sūtra.*
- *Ṛgveda: Ṛig Veda.*
- *Śat. Br: Śatapatha Brāhmaṇa.*
- *SBE: Sacred Books of the East.*
- *Śr. Sū: Śrauta Sūtra*
- *S.Gṛ.Sū: Sāṅkhāyana Gṛhya Sūtra.*
- *San.Sr.Su: Śāṅkhāyana Śrauta Sūtra.*
- *SV: Sāma Veda.*
- *Tai.Ār: Taittirīya Āraṇyaka.*
- *Tā. Br: Tāṇḍya Brāhmaṇa.*
- *Tā. M. Br: Tāṇḍya Mahabrāhmaṇa*
- *Tai.Brā: Taittirīya Brāhmaṇa.*

- Trns: Translated.
- *Tai.Sam: Taittirīya Samhitā.*
- *Up: Upaniṣad.*
- *Vai. Sū: Vaitāna Sūtra*
- *Vait. Śr. Sū: Vaitāna Śrauta Sūtra.*
- *Vā.Sam: Vājasaneyī Samhitā.*
- Viz.: Namely.
- YN: *Yāska's Nirukta.*
- YV: Yajurveda.

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